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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS A \$50,000 GRANT FOR HEALTHCARE EDUCATIONAL MARKETING PLAN

U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson joined USDA Rural Development officials to announce an award of \$50,000 to the Texas County Technical Institute (TCTI) on Tuesday, October 19, 2004. A Mock Check presentation was held at TCTI in Houston, Missouri. The funds will be used to develop a marketing plan for the current healthcare education programs offered through TCTI. The branch campuses located in Bolivar and Branson, Missouri will play a crucial role by offering Practical Nursing and Registered Nurse programs.

"It is essential that we make students and workers aware of this opportunity to specialize their skills. Southern Missouri is home to so many caring communities, and we have a lot to offer in the field of health care. Rural Development is helping to advance the mission of the Texas County Technical Institute and to strengthen the programs that keep our community learning," Emerson said.

"I am pleased that USDA can help with financing this important project for these communities," said Greg Branum. "The opportunities for employment for the citizens of these three areas of the state will greatly increase due to these nursing programs. Programs like this mirror President Bush's initiatives and exemplify the Rural Development mission - committed to the future of rural communities"

We are grateful to the Missouri Foundation for Health, Citizen's Memorial Hospital in Bolivar, Skaggs Community Hospital in Branson, and the USDA Rural Development for their help in realizing this goal," said Charlotte Gray, TCTI Administrator. "People will no longer have to drive 100 miles or more to get the training and skills needed in today's fast paced and competitive world."

Branum added "Appreciation is extended to U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representatives Jo Ann Emerson, Roy Blunt, and Ike Skelton for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Jack Kearbey, Rural Development Specialist, or Robert Strickland, Community Development Manager at 6726 S. Hwy. 63, Suite B, Houston,



Left to right: Ron Reed, City of Houston Economic Developer, Carol Dale, Member, TCTI Advisory Board, Congresswoman Emerson, Charlotte Gray, TCTI Administrator, Don Shelhammer, Member, TCTI Advisory Board, Leroy Kunkel, USDA Rural Development, Rural Development Manager, Robert Strickland, USDA Rural Development, Community Development Manager.

MO, 65483 or by calling (417) 967-2028 extension 3, or by email to jack.kearbey@mo.usda.gov or robert.strickland@mo.usda.gov

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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